

Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, please replace the first paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The invention belongs to the field of cosmetics and concerns preparations, especially face masks, which are free of animal collagen and which are ~~obtained~~ obtained through cross-linking of chitosans in the presence of glucans.

Page 3, please replace the first full paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The term glucans means homopolysaccharides based on glucose. Depending on sterical linking there is a difference between β -(1,3), β -(1,4) and β -(1,6) glucans. β -(1,3) Glucans normally show a helical structure, whereas glucans with a (1,4) linkage generally have a linear structure. The β -glucans of the invention have a (1,3) structure, i.e. they are ~~substantially~~ substantially free from undesired (1,6) linkages. Preferably such β -(1,3) glucans are used where the side chains exclusively show (1,3) linkages. Especially the agents contain glucans which are obtained on the basis of yeasts from the family ~~Sacchaomyces~~ Saccharomyces, specially *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Glucans of this type are available in technical amounts according to known methods. The international patent application WO9/30022 (Biotec-Mackzymal) describes a method for producing such substances, wherein glucans with β -(1,3)

and β -(1,6) linkages are brought in contact with β -(1,6) glucanases in such a way, that practically all β (1,6) linkages are loosened. Preferably used for the manufacture of these glucans are glucanases based on *Trichoderma harzianum*. As to the manufacture and availability of the glucans contained in these agents, reference is made to the above cited publication. The glucans can be contained in the preparations in amounts of 0.1 to 5, preferably 0.2 to 5, and preferably 0.5 to 1% by weight, based on the preparations.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Diisocyanates which can be used for cross-linking of the chitosans, preferably follow the formula (I),



wherein X represents a linear or branched naphthenic or aromatic hydrocarbon residue with 1 to 12 carbon atoms. Preferably ~~hexamethylene~~ hexamethylene diisocynate is used as cross-linking agent. As dialdehydes substances following the ~~formuls~~ formula (II) can be used



wherein Y represents a linear or branched naphthenic or aromatic hydrocarbon residue with 1 to 12 carbon atoms. Preferably glutaric dialdehyde is used as cross-linking agent. The cross-linking agents can be used in amounts of 0.5 to 10, preferably 1 to 8, and especially 2 to 5% by weight.

Please replace the first paragraph of page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Normally aqueous solutions or suspensions of the chitosans with a content of dry matter of 0.5 to 3%, preferably 1.8 to 2.2 %, by weight with a pH value of 3.5 to 6, preferably 5.0 to 5.7 are prepared by addition of inorganic or organic acids, preferably hydrochloric acid, whereby the temperature should be chosen so that the swelling of the biopolymers is supported. Normally the temperature lies in the area from 20 to 50 and preferably 35 to 45°C. The suspensions made in this way, in addition to the dissolved biopolymers also contain swollen not dissolved particles. The viscosity of the suspension which appears through the mentioned conditions can be of influence on the mechanical properties later on. To the suspensions then the glucans and possibly polyols and further cosmetic components are added. For the mechanical properties of the fleeces it has been shown to be of advantage to add to the suspension natural fibers, such as, for example, lignin, polyose, ~~pektin~~ pectin and especially cellulose, but also synthetic fibers such as, for example, polyesters, polyamides or mixtures thereof in an amount of 1 to 50, preferably to 10, % by weight. It is especially recommended to add the fibers before homogenizing of the solution. Subsequently the suspension is homogenized, cross-linked with the diisocyanates and/or dialdehydes, and the water is removed. Preferably the removal of water takes place through freeze-drying, and thereafter splitting into blocks or fine slices

can take place.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The preparations according to the invention are preferably used for preparation of cosmetic face masks. They can further contain as additional auxiliary and additional agents mild surfactants, oil bodies, emulsifiers, hyperfatting agents, pearl gloss waxes, consistency substances, thickening agents, polymers, silicone compounds, fats, waxes, stabilizing agents, biogenic active substances, deodorants, antiperspirants, ~~antitranspirants~~, agents against dandruff, film forming agents, swelling agents, UV light protection agents, antioxidants, hydrotropes, preservatives, insect repellents, self tanning agents, solubilizing agents, perfume oils, ~~colouring~~ coloring agents and suchlike.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 with the following amended paragraph:

As oil bodies use can be made of, for example, Guerbet alcohols based on fatty alcohols with 6 to 18, preferably 8 to 10 carbon atoms, esters of linear C₆-C₂₂ fatty acids with linear C₆-C₂₂ fatty alcohols, esters of branched C₆-C₁₃ carboxylic acids with linear C₆-C₂₂ fatty alcohols, such as e.g. myristyl myristate, myristyl palmitate, myristyl stearate, myristyl isostearate, myristyl oleate, myristyl behenate, myristyl erucate, cetyl myristate, cetyl

palmitate, cetyl stearate, cetyl isostearate, cetyl oleate, cetyl behenate, cetyl erucate, stearyl myristate, stearyl palmitate, stearyl stearate, stearyl isostearate, stearyl oleate, stearyl behenate, stearyl erucate, isostearyl myristate, isostearyl palmitate, isostearyl stearate, isostearyl isostearate, isostearyl oleate, isostearyl behenate, isostearyl oleate, oleyl myristate, oleyl palmitate, oleyl stearate, oleyl isostearate, oleyl oleate, oleyl behenate, oleyl erucate, behenyl myristate, behenyl palmitate, behenyl stearate, behenyl isostearate, behenyl oleate, behenyl behenate, behenyl erucate, erucyl myristate, erucyl palmitate, erucyl stearate, erucyl isostearate, erucyl oleate, erucyl behenate and erucyl erucate. In addition ~~addition~~ esters of linear C₆-C₂₂ fatty acids with branched alcohols, especially 2-ethylhexanol, esters of hydroxycarboxylic acids with linear or branched C₆-C₂₂ fatty alcohols, especially dioctyl malate, esters of linear and/or branched fatty acids with polyvalent alcohols (such as e.g. propylene glycol, dimeric diol or trimeric triol) and or Guerbet alcohols, triglycerides based on C₆-C₁₀ fatty acids, liquid mixtures of mono-/di-/triglycerides based on C₆-C₁₈ fatty acids, esters of C₆-C₂₂ fatty alcohols and/or Guerbet alcohols with aromatic carboxylic acids, especially benzoic acid, esters of C₂-C₁₂ dicarboxylic acids with linear or branched alcohols with 1 to 22 carbon atoms or polyols with 2 to 10 carbon atoms and 2 to 6 hydroxyl groups, plant oils, branched primary alcohols, substituted cyclohexanes, linear and branched C₆-C₂₂ fatty alcohol carbonates, Guerbet carbonates, esters of benzoic acid with linear and/or branched C₆-C₂₂ alcohols (e.g. FINSOLV® TN), linear or

branched, symmetrical or unsymmetrical dialyl esters with 6 to 22 carbon atoms in each alkyl group, ring opening products of epoxy dated fatty acid esters with polyols, silicone oils and/or aliphatic or naphthenic hydrocarbons, such as e.g. squalan, squalen or dialkyl cyclohexanes, can be used.